

SACRED HEART MISSION

5 Miles Northwest of Konawa, and 3 Miles North of State Highway 39  
between Asher and Konawa

Konawa

Seminole

Oklahoma

HALS OK-27

OK-27

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

### SACRED HEART MISSION

HALS NO. OK-27

**Location:** 5 Miles Northwest of Konawa, Oklahoma and 3 miles North of State Highway 39 between Asher and Konawa, Konawa, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma.  
Lat: 35.0075 Long: -96.81528

**Significance:** Sacred Heart Mission was the first Catholic Mission, monastery, convent, and Pottowatomie Indian School in Indian Territory. It served as the center for other missionary activities throughout all of Indian Territory. The mission was also the place of origin for current-day St. Gregory's University in Shawnee, Oklahoma. The site's ruins provide an excellent example of the way typical Catholic missions were arranged in the late 1800s. This vernacular landscape is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a designated Oklahoma Landmark.

**History:** Sacred Heart Mission began in 1876 when Right Reverend Dom Isidore Robot and Dominic Lambert, monks of the French monastery of Notre Dame de la Pierre-qui-Vire, came from France and received permission and support from the Church in Rome and France to establish a mission outpost in Indian Territory. In the autumn of 1876, under the guidance of Robot, a series of buildings were erected on a tract of land provided by the Pottowatomie Indians near present-day Konawa, Oklahoma. Located four miles south of the South Canadian River in a heavily forested valley, the site was established just west of an area locally known as Bald Hill. Joseph Moulaupt, a farmer from Missouri came to the Mission in 1878 and directed the planting of orchards, vineyards, vegetable gardens, and established grain production operations. He also instituted a system for raising livestock. The Mission's water supply came from two creeks that traverse the site. Out of necessity, the mission became a self sustaining entity. St. Mary's Abbey, a school for Indian girls was started in 1880. The same year the Sacred Heart Institute was opened as a boarding school for Indian boys. It operated until 1929, while the girls school closed in 1946. In 1884, Sacred Heart College was established, which relocated to the growing town of Shawnee, Oklahoma in 1913 and developed into St. Gregory's University.

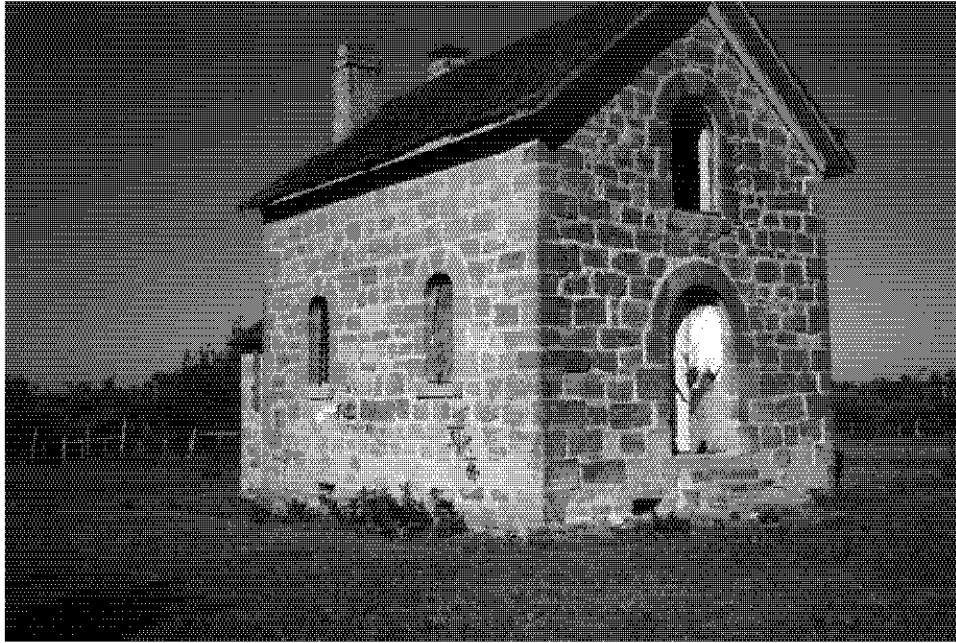
Today, the existing buildings on site include a stone bakery, two log homes built in the late 1800s, and a maintenance building constructed in the early 1900s. In addition to the remaining structures, foundations for many of the original buildings are still visible. Parts of the orchards, vineyards, two cemeteries, and other landscape features are still present. A new church was built in 1914 on Bald Hill. It is still in use today.

Sources: National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Sacred Heart Mission Site, <http://www.oci.okstate.edu/shpo/nhrpdfs/83002125.pdf> (accessed October 24, 2009).

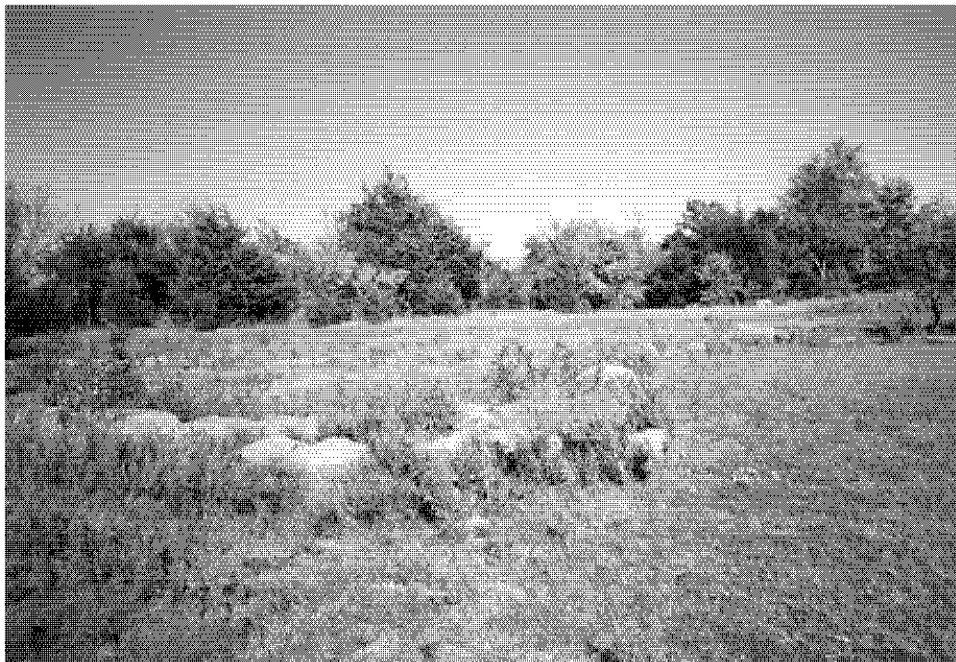
St. Gregory's Abbey,  
[http://www.monksok.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=1](http://www.monksok.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=1) (accessed October 24, 2009).

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Stone bakery (Steve Eilers, 2009).



Stone remnants of original church building (Steve Eilers, 2009).